



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO MORE DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two more defendants were sentenced in federal court today for their role in a conspiracy to distribute more than 1,000 pounds of methamphetamine in Jackson County and western Missouri over a two-year period.

Irma Carrasco, 23, of Amarillo, Texas, was sentenced this afternoon by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey to 10 years and 10 months in prison without parole.

On November 5, 2001, **Carrasco** pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, and one count of conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

Miguel Antillon-Castillo, 26, of Amarillo, Texas, was sentenced this afternoon by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey to four years in prison without parole.

On November 5, 2001, **Antillon-Castillo** pleaded guilty on November 5, 2001, to one count of conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, and one count of conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

Carrasco and **Antillon-Castillo** are among nine persons indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, Mo., on April 10, 2001. Graves said they were part of a drug ring responsible for distributing more than 1,000 pounds of methamphetamine and more than 200 kilograms (more than 440 pounds) of cocaine in Jackson County and elsewhere that operated from approximately June 1999 through April 2001.

(MORE)

METH CONSPIRACY

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Five co-defendants have previously been sentenced:

* **Edward Wisdom**, 49, of Amoret, Mo., was sentenced to 12 years in prison without parole by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning. On November 5, 2001, **Wisdom** pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine.

* **Antonio Lara-Beltran**, 26, address unknown, was sentenced on April 25, 2002, to 8 years, 3 months in prison without parole. **Lara-Beltran** pleaded guilty on November 6, 2001, to one count of conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

* **Ramon Ponce**, 59, of Miami, Fla., was sentenced on April 4, 2002, to 19 years, 7 months in prison without parole. **Ponce** pleaded guilty on November 6, 2001, to one count of conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine.

* **Rigoberto Antillon-Castillo**, 28, Amarillo, Texas, the brother of **Miguel Antillon-Castillo**, was sentenced on May 23, 2002, to 27 years in prison without parole. **Antillon-Castillo** pleaded guilty on November 5, 2001, to one count of conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine, and one count of conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine.

* **Tait A. Torset**, 28, address unknown, was sentenced on November 30, 2001, to 13 years, 4 months in prison without parole. **Torset** pleaded guilty on July 16, 2001, to one count of conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Other defendants charged in the indictment:

* **Gerardo Tavares-Ramos**, 24, of Amarillo, Texas, who is charged in the indictment with one count of conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine, is currently a fugitive and is being sought on a federal arrest warrant.

* **Luis E. Delfierro**, 26, of Amarillo, Texas, was officially dismissed from the case on October 4, 2001, and is not being prosecuted.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Valenti. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, Overland Park, Kan., Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow